



## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

This information sheet has been prepared to assist people with A-8 Area-specific Archery Hunt tags or X-5A general deer zone tags. Zone X-5A is located in Lassen County.

## **REGULATIONS**

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the regulations contained in the 2003 Hunting Regulations for Mammals and Furbearers. Remember you must obtain written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

## **PUBLIC LAND**

Zone X-5A contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Public lands within the zone are administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5381.

## **ACCESS**

There are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access in Zone X-5A. Primary roadways in the zone are State Highway 139 (western X-5A) and State Highway 395 (eastern X-5A). Many County and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

## **MAPS**

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the BLM Recreation Guide for Northeastern California and Northwestern Nevada and surface management maps for Eagle Lake and Susanville. United States Geological Service (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially to depict topographic features that are not displayed on BLM maps. USGS maps are usually available at backpacking and engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at U.S. Geological Distribution Center, Denver Federal Center, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225, 1-888-ASK-USGS. USGS maps are also available online at [usgs.gov](http://usgs.gov). BLM maps are available at all BLM offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4400; or at 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130, (530) 257-2957.

## **TRAVEL TIPS**

Zone X-5A covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of X-5A however, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

## **WEATHER**

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

## **CAMPING**

Campgrounds are very limited within Zone X-5A. The closest “improved” campground is actually outside of Zone X-5A at the north end of Eagle Lake (west of the State Highway 139 & County Road A-1 intersection). There is limited camping at the Honey Lake Wildlife Area, Fleming Unit, near Litchfield. Campgrounds are marked on BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas. Please, **DO NOT CAMP** at springs or other water sources that are important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining at artificial wildlife water sources (guzzlers) can be a Fish & Game violation. **YOU** can pack water--birds and animals can't!

## **WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER**

You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and the successful hunter generally has to do some hiking to locate deer. Binoculars can be very helpful for seeing deer at any distance.

The deer in this area are mule deer. Deer in Zone X-5A generally move to higher elevations in the northwestern portion of Zone X-5A in early May and will remain until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line to the southeast. Deer on Shaffer and Snowstorm Mountain move seasonally up and down the slopes. The downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

Some popular hunting areas in Zone X-5A are Fredonyer Peak, Horse Lake, Snowstorm, Shaffer and Tunnison mountains. Scouting other areas can help you locate an out-of-the-way site that may have less hunter pressure and fit your style of hunting.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-5A. Generally, the best hunting is near stands of bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, or tall sagebrush. Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting and locating well-used deer trails. In general, hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock are more productive.